

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) Continuous casting mold for liquid metals, especially liquid steel, comprising: ~~with~~ steel charging plates, which are arranged parallel opposite each other to form the casting cross section and are surrounded by water tanks; ~~with~~ cassette-type copper plates, which rest against the steel charging plates and bound the casting cavity; possibly ~~with~~ end plates, which are inserted at the end faces of the casting cavity for establishing the thickness and/or width of the cast strand and close the casting cavity at the end faces; and ~~with~~ coolant channels that connect an inlet with an outlet in the copper plates at their contact surfaces with the steel charging plates; wherein the thickness (10) of the copper plates (3) between the coolant (11) and the hot side (3a) of the copper plates (3) varies over the width (2 x L) and/or over the height (12) of the mold, wherein the coolant channels (9) run in the copper plate (3) and at least partially in the adjacent steel charging plate (2); wherein a cross section (14) of the coolant channel (9) is

smaller in a meniscus region (13) than elsewhere in the coolant channel (9).

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) Continuous casting mold in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the thickness (10) between the coolant channel (9) and the hot-side surface (3a) of the copper plate (3) is smaller in the meniscus region (13) than it is above or below this region.

5. (Currently amended) Continuous casting mold in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the smaller thickness (10) between the coolant channel (9) and the hot-side surface (3a) of the copper plate (3) is limited to the height section (H2), and the smaller thickness increases continuously to a distance ( $A_u$ ) in lower sections.

6. (Currently amended) Continuous casting mold in accordance with Claim 1, wherein ~~a distance (D1, D3) of the hot-side surface (3a) of the copper plate (3)~~ has a section of a

distance (D1; D3) that is constant in the same height sections (L1; L3).

7. (Previously presented) Continuous casting mold in accordance with Claim 1, wherein in width section (L2), the distance to the hot-side surface (3a) is smaller in the central region than in the peripheral region.

8. (Previously presented) Continuous casting mold in accordance with Claim 1, wherein grooves (15) in the copper plate (3) which communicate with the coolant channel (9) are formed with groove depths (16) greater than 10 mm and less than 20 mm.

9. (Currently amended) Continuous casting mold in accordance with Claim 1, wherein a funnel mold (17) can be used and ~~that~~ the width section (L3) forming a ~~with the~~ greatest distance (D3) of the coolant channel (9) from the hot-side surface (3a) of the copper plate (3) has a length of 50-80% of a length of the width region (L) in the funnel (17a).

10. (Previously presented) Continuous casting mold in accordance with Claim 9, wherein an external width region (L1) of

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the copper plate (3) is 50-80% of the wide-side half-length (L)  
minus the funnel half-width (L3).